

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:292
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Community Radio Stations
Gogoi Shri Gaurav

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Community Radio Stations in the country for agricultural farmers, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for supporting and developing these stations;
- (c) the funds allotted to States for the development of such stations during the last three years, State-wise ; and
- (d) whether the Government is considering any plan for the development of Community Radio Stations for fishermen also in the coastal regions of the country for updating the weather forecast and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SH. M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 292 FOR REPLY ON 22.03.2017.

(a) Permission to set up Community Radio Station (CRS) is granted to educational institutions, registered societies/NGOs and Krishi Vigyan Kendras/State Agricultural Universities under the Policy Guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations in India, issued in the year 2006. Policy guidelines prescribe that the basic objective of the Community Radio broadcasting is to serve the cause of the community in the service area of the permission holder by involving members of the community in the broadcast of their programmes. The programmes are of immediate relevance to the community. The emphasis of the programmes is on issues related to development, agriculture, health, education, environment, social welfare, community development and culture. At present 202 Community Radio Stations are operational across the country. State wise details of operational CRSs are at Annexure.

(b) Awareness workshops are being organized by this Ministry to sensitize people about the community radio policy and create awareness amongst aspiring applicants about issues relating to setting up, operation & maintenance of Community Radios. So far 79 awareness workshops have been organised across the country. Besides this, six National Sammelans have been organised for Community Radio operators, Government Ministries and Departments, UN organisations and other stakeholders for exchange of ideas and discussions.

Ministry also provides financial support to new as well as existing CR Stations for purchase of equipment and for upgrading technology etc.

(c) Financial assistance for purchasing equipment is provided to licensee organization. No funds are allotted to states for development of CRSs.

(d) Policy Guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations (CRS) in India allows setting up of CRS in any part of the country including coastal regions, subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria. Community Radio Stations, set up as per the policy, can also be effectively used for disseminating weather forecast for fishermen.